Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

91-04389/

Saskatchewan Social Services

1989-90

Foreword

Annual Report 1989-90

This Annual Report summarizes the performance of the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

The Report is divided into four basic sections:

- introductory and organizational information;
- public programs and services;
- internal support services; and,
- fiscal statement.

Copies of this Report are available from:

Saskatchewan Social Services
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V6

Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

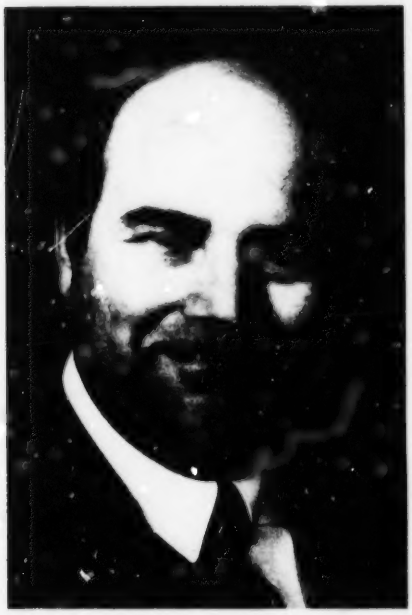
May it please Your Honour:

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

Bill Z. Neudorf
Minister of Social Services

Office of the Minister of Social Services
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Deputy Minister's Transmittal



Honourable Bill Neudorf
Minister of Social Services
Regina, Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to present to you herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services respecting the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

Allan Hansen
Deputy Minister
of Social Services

Mission

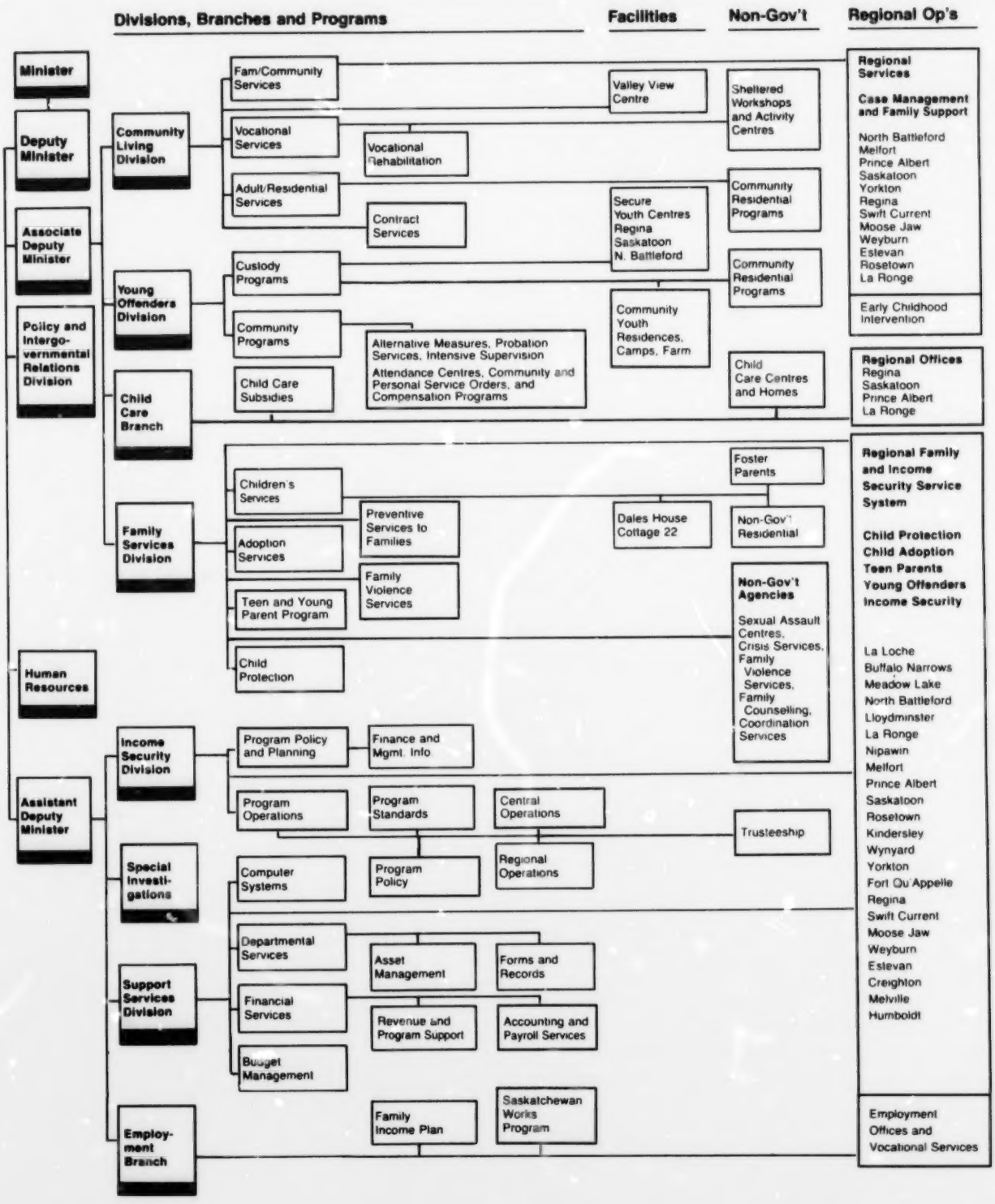
The **mission** of Saskatchewan Social Services is to foster independence of people in need through competent and caring service.

Mandate

The **mandate** of Saskatchewan Social Services is to:

- provide financial assistance and related support services to, and promote the self-reliance of, people who cannot maintain their independence;
- protect children against abuse, neglect, and abandonment;
- provide substitute care for children, youth, and families in need;
- provide residential, community, custodial, and Court related services for youth in conflict with the law; and,
- promote independent living for persons with mental or physical disabilities.

Organization



Family Services

The Family Services Division provides child protection services, teen and young parent support services, services to children in care, and adoption services. These services are primarily delivered through the Department's network of regional offices.

In addition, the Division provides assistance to victims of family violence. A variety of family counselling and support services are offered through a number of non-governmental organizations funded by the Department.

Highlights 1989-90

The Child and Family Services Act and The Adoption Act were passed.

A standardized foster care training program was developed with the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association to restructure and strengthen the foster care program. Three-quarters of the foster parents in the province and half of the Family Services Division's staff completed the 40-hour training program.

To achieve a better match between foster children and foster parents, a new home classification process involving over 700 foster homes was completed.

In partnership with the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association, the Division developed program proposals and policies regarding payments, specialist training, agreements, assessment, and case planning.

The Division undertook four native foster home recruitment projects. Over 35 native foster homes were recruited.

Child abuse investigation protocols were used across the province and an evaluation was initiated.

A range of "openness-in-adoption" procedures, for consideration by both birth and adoptive parents, was introduced for the province after initiation through a project in Saskatoon.

The Family Support Centre began operation in Saskatoon.

The Division piloted the community family forum concept. The first family forums were held in Nipawin and Melfort.

SYMPOSIUM ABOUT FAMILIES

The Government of Saskatchewan hosted 'A Symposium About Families' which was initiated by the ten Premiers of Canada at their annual conference in August, 1988. More than 750 delegates from across Canada attended the Symposium, sponsored by the ten provinces, in Regina from July 11 - 14, 1989. Delegates participated in plenary and panel sessions, question and answer periods, and delegates' workshops.

The purpose of the Symposium was to allow governments and others to be exposed to a broad spectrum of views about supporting and strengthening families. It served as an opportunity for delegates to exchange ideas on issues of concern to families.

The Division played the lead role in organizing this world class event.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

A Family Support Centre was opened in Saskatoon. Services provided include a domestic abuse outreach program, parent education, teen and young parent services, and three school-based family support drop-in centres. Child care was provided to facilitate attendance in the programs.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

Prior to passage of the Act, extensive consultation took place. Comments have generally been very positive, recognizing the Act strikes the proper balance between the right of the state to protect children and the needs of the family.

The Act:

- clarifies the requirement of reporting child abuse and neglect occurring within the family, and the penalties for failing to make a report;
- emphasizes family support and keeping families together where that is a safe plan;
- emphasizes involvement of the extended family and others who have a significant interest in children who may need temporary substitute care; and,
- provides for services to 16 or 17 year olds when requested by the young person or where extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant intervention to assist the young person.

THE ADOPTION ACT

Consultations were held with the Saskatchewan Adoptive Parents Association and Christian Counselling Services, as well as departmental staff.

The Adoption Act recognizes the balance which must be struck between the best interests of children and the needs and rights of birth parents and adoptive parents.

The Act:

- allows the court to determine whether an adoption is in a child's best interests;
- recognizes the rights of birth fathers who acknowledge paternity of the child;
- ensures informed decision-making by birth parents through the requirement of independent advice;
- prohibits a consent to adoption from being taken until the child is at least three days old;
- shortens the period during which the birth parent may revoke his or her consent to 14 days from 30 days; and,
- facilitates openness in adoption.

CHILD PROTECTION

Reports of children needing protection, as prescribed by The Family Services Act, were investigated. Cases of child assault by a family member required joint involvement with the police.

Reports of child neglect, abuse, or abandonment were investigated by child protection workers located in regional offices across Saskatchewan. In most cases, children in need of protection either remained in their family setting or were taken into care until the situation was such that they could be returned home. Services were also provided to parents declaring their own need for assistance with serious parenting problems. Voluntary services were emphasized.

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by non-governmental agencies. Rural coverage was provided by departmental staff and the R.C.M.P.

The Division was involved with the various police services and prosecutors in a coordinated service approach for joint child protection and criminal investigations.

A number of in-home support services, provided by the Division or non-governmental agencies, were available to help families resolve problems: home-maker services, parent aide, parent education or life skills training, emergency babysitting, recreation fees, and assessment, counselling, or therapy.

Statistics for 1989-90 (# new families served)

Physical neglect	412
Physical abuse	215
Sexual abuse	228
Emotional abuse	12
Parent/child conflict	323
Family support services (serious parenting difficulties)	650

In addition, 1,242 cases were investigated resulting in short-term services being provided, clients being referred elsewhere for service, or a conclusion that children in the families involved were not in need of protection or referral. There were 2,801 families receiving services at March 31, 1990.

In cases where children required out of home placement and the parent(s) agreed, the Division sought voluntary agreements rather than initiating court proceedings. At fiscal year end, there were 491 contractual agreements for temporary child care between the Minister of Social Services and parents. The children were usually placed in foster homes while problems were resolved.

CHILDREN IN CARE

The Division provided a range of alternative care resources for children and youth away from their families.

Seventy percent of children and youth in the care of the Minister were placed in foster homes. Of the remainder, some lived independently or with relatives, while others received service through specialized treatment homes, group homes, and residential treatment centres. These services were provided through a combination of departmentally operated facilities or through direct funding, grants, or fee-for-service agreements with non-governmental organizations. The intensity of service varied with the needs of the children.

There was an increase in the number of children in care during the year. There were 2,416 in care at March 31, 1990, compared with 2,261 a year earlier.

Children in Care by Authority of The Family Services Act at March 31, 1990

Apprehended: matter before the court	782
Section 8: voluntary agreement with parents for care	491
Section 9: agreement for care and service, 16 and 17 year olds	126
Temporary Wards: committed to care for one year or less	154
Permanent Wards: committed to care until age of majority	824
Section 44: service for previous wards 18 to 21 years so that education might continue	39
Total	**2,416**

Foster parents and other care givers were responsible for the care of children. The Minister of Social Services remained legal guardian and retained responsibility for planning and financial support.

As of March 31, 1990, there were 753 foster homes in Saskatchewan, an increase of 16 over the previous year.

A three-level system for classifying foster homes was completed. Development of the second or "Specialist" level curriculum was initiated.

Youth "Specialist" level home projects were introduced in the North Battleford and Yorkton areas of the province.

ADOPTION

Where adoption was the plan of choice for children, a variety of adoption services were provided to facilitate permanency planning for children and support for birth parents. Adult adoptees were assisted, through information or search, to achieve a satisfactory understanding of their birth family and/or the circumstances leading to their adoption.

A variety of adoption services were delivered to meet individual child and family needs.

Infant Ward Adoptions

Fifty-four infants were placed in adoption homes during the year.

Special Adoption

Extra effort was extended through the Special Adoption Program to locate parents for children who might otherwise be delayed or overlooked for adoption. The majority of children who were to be adopted were school age, of minority race, or had medical, physical, or emotional disabilities. Sixty-two children with special needs were placed during the year.

Assisted Adoption

Children who are wards of the Minister and who are at risk of not being adopted may qualify for maintenance assistance, special services, and extended health coverage when they are adopted into a family. Agreements for 17 such children were approved during the year.

International Adoption

Thirteen international adoption applications were active at year end. The Division also carried out a fact finding mission to Romania to explore ways of providing on-site assistance to children in Romanian orphanages and to explore the possibility of adoption by Saskatchewan families of children identified for placement by Romanian authorities.

Step-Parent Adoption

The Division handled 242 step-parent adoptions during the year.

Independent and Third-party Adoptions

A total of 113 independent and third-party adoptions were arranged during 1989-90.

Agency Adoption

Christian Counselling Services of Saskatoon placed 23 infants as open adoptions during the year under review.

Post Adoption Services

Post adoption services were provided to adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and birth parents.

Number of Adoptions 1989-90

Ward Adoption Placements	
Infant adoptions	54
Special adoptions: Infant	14
Other	48
Non Ward Adoption Orders Issued	
Independent and third party adoptions	113
Agency adoptions	23
Step-parent adoptions	242
Total	**494**

Number of Applications at March 31, 1990

Status	Infant	Special Needs	Total
Waiting list	502	162	664
Under study	118	121	239
Approved for placement	83	31	114
Totals	**703**	**314**	**1,017**

Post Adoption Service Requests

Non-identifying information	620
Search and contact: Adult Adoptees	152
Birth family	241
Total	**1,013**

Post Adoption Searches Completed

Reunions completed (mutual request: 40)	123
Birth parent declined contact	28
Requests withdrawn	66
Independent search completed	6
Birth parent deceased	2
Unable to locate birth parent	5
Total	**230**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The Department's Contract Services Branch, which provided administrative support for all third-party grants during the year under review, is located in the Department's Community Living Division. The Family Services Division retained program responsibility for a range of grant-funded non-governmental organizations contracted to provide services which supplement or complement the Division's mandate.

Crisis Intervention

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service, the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative, and the Mobile Crisis Services, Regina.

Sexual assault services were provided by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre, the Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line, and a sexual assault worker with the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Family Violence Services

Services for victims of personal and family violence were provided by the West Central Crisis Centre in Kindersley, the North East Crisis Intervention Centre in Melfort, the South West Crisis Services in Swift Current, and the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours in Yorkton. Two support groups for battered women, one at the Regina Family Service Bureau, and the other at the Saskatoon Family Service Bureau, received funding from the Department.

Family violence shelter services for battered women and their children were provided by the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Saskatoon Interval House, the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, the Association

of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert, the Battlefords Interval House in North Battleford, and Shelwin House, Yorkton Women in Need Inc.

A new family shelter, operated by the Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Women's Council of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, opened in Regina during October, 1989.

Additional crisis accommodation for battered women and children was provided through safe shelter programs operated in Regina by the YWCA Isabel Johnson Centre, in LaRonge by the LaRonge Native Women's Organization Inc., and in Swift Current by South West Crisis Services. Crisis accommodation was also available through a safe house project in Melfort, sponsored by the North East Crisis Intervention Centre.

Counselling and Family Supports

Personal counselling and support services were provided by a number of native family service organizations including the Lestock Women's Centre, the Native Co-ordinating Council (Family Services) in Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows Native Women, the Dene Kwan Self-Help Council and Housing Corporation (Family Support Centre) in LaLoche, the LaRonge Native Women's Organization (Family Crisis Centre), the Fort Qu'Appelle Ka-pa-chee Centre (Parent Aide), the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians Riel Local of Regina (Parent Aide), and the Peyakowak (They Are Alone) Committee Inc. of Regina.

Family support was provided by family workers in native friendship centres in Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, LaRonge, and Carlyle.

Counselling and family services were provided by the Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina, the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina, the Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, the Minto Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw, and Catholic Family Services of Prince Albert.

Other counselling services were offered by the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project in Regina, the SCEP Centre Society in Regina, the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children, the Friendship Inn in Saskatoon, the Humboldt District No. 44 Home Program (Family Counselling Program), SMILE Services Inc. of Estevan, the Merici Centre in Regina, and Christian Counselling Services in Saskatoon.

A crisis nursery program was provided by the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children.

Prevention

Services were provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers organizations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan, Lloydminster, Humboldt, Yorkton, Weyburn, Moose Jaw, and Swift Current.

Local and Provincial Co-ordination

The Saskatchewan Human Services Association and The Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association, each provided provincial co-ordination services to their members and member agencies.

Regional Services

Teen and Young Parent Support Services

The Department provided information, referral, counselling, and other pre- and post-natal support services to young, prospective, and single parents, to foster informed decisions about the future of their children. Involvement of fathers and grandparents was encouraged. Thirteen new positions were added to the program during 1989-90. Outreach services provided included pregnancy counselling, parenting skills, life skills, and vocational and educational counselling.

Relinquishment services, through Court or document committals, were provided to parents who decided to place their children for adoption. The Department then made arrangements for adoption placement for these children.

Services were provided to young parents who decided to parent their children. These included: individual counselling; group meetings to teach specific parenting skills regarding the developmental needs of infants; and, counselling with respect to budgets, education, and employment.

Where the support of extended families was lacking, teen parents were often matched with volunteers for support. The volunteer service was run by the five Family Service agencies in Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw.

Child Protection

Reports of child neglect, abuse, or abandonment were investigated by regional child protection workers. Workers provided family assessment, counselling, referral, parent aide, home making, or transportation services to reduce risk to children and prevent their coming into care.

Children in Care

Children and youth who could not be cared for in their families were taken into the Minister's care and placed in foster homes. The Department retained overall responsibility for maintenance and care arrangements, while foster parents provided day-to-day care.

Children's services workers provided counselling, referral, and other support services for both children and foster parents. Emphasis was on foster parent training.

For children with special needs, such as physical or mental disabilities or emotional disturbance, the Department provided specialized services and facilitated care through alternative department or community-based residential resources.

Adoption

Parents seeking to place children for adoption could receive assistance with decision making and with completing the necessary documents.

Persons seeking to adopt children were assessed through an adoption study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting an adopted child.

Youth

In addition to protection services and residential supports for parents and teens in conflict, support was provided regionally to unmarried, teen parents. Extended educational services were provided to youth who had been wards of the Minister.

Regional services for young offenders included alternative measures, judicial interim release, probation, community alternatives, intensive supervision, attendance centres, and both open and secure custody.

Community Living

Regional services were available for persons with mental or physical handicaps, depending on personal needs. These services helped adults or children and their parents adjust to disabilities, minimize the affects of handicapping conditions, and make informed decisions about educational, residential, and lifestyle needs.

The Department also assisted community-based, non-governmental service agencies with program design, implementation, and management.

Income Support

People who, for various reasons such as chronic disability, ill health, or inability to secure employment, did not have sufficient funds to meet basic needs could apply for financial assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan.

Assistance was provided to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing, and other necessities. In some cases, clients qualified for supplementary health services provided through the Department of Health. Other counselling and referral services were provided to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

Regional offices were responsible for determining eligibility and administering financial assistance to clients.

Training, Education, and Employment

In addition to income support, vocational service workers provided training, educational, and employment support services. Social assistance clients who were able to work were offered specialized vocational or general training, and educational and work opportunities to help them gain or regain self-reliance.

Regional offices of the Saskatchewan Works Program worked with employers in the non-governmental, municipal, and business sectors to create job opportunities for employable clients.

Emergency Services

The Department's regional offices also assist in times of large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people. Assistance provided would include support for food, clothing, lodging, or other personal services. The Department coordinates provision of such assistance with local and provincial emergency measures organizations.

During the year, emergency evacuations were conducted in the communities of Sandy Bay and Garson Lake.

Young Offenders

The proclamation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada) in 1984, marked the beginning of a new era for dealing with young offenders. The legislation attempts to balance the preservation of individual rights and freedoms with the protection of society. These changes have had a significant impact on the way services are provided to youth in Saskatchewan.

The Act established that youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who commit offences should be held responsible and accountable for their actions; however, it also recognized that they have special needs and require guidance and assistance.

Under the Act, youth are guaranteed the same rights and freedoms as adults, including those stated in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Bill of Rights. Young people who offend may be dealt with outside the formal court process so long as society is protected. The Act also acknowledges that parents are responsible for the supervision of their children.

THE YOUTH MODEL

Saskatchewan's Youth Model reflects the philosophy of the Young Offenders Act (Canada) by providing the balance between the protection of society and the rights and needs of youth. It addresses the special needs of youth through guidance, counselling, encouragement of family involvement, community participation, and educational and employment opportunities, while ensuring that youth are held accountable through supervision and appropriate use of custody.

The Youth Model reinforces the importance of protecting society by providing for supervision and by addressing the personal, family, and social problems that lead to conflict with the law, as well as encouraging the community to become an active partner in the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of youth who break the law.

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

Alternative Measures refers to procedures whereby individuals who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with through community-based alternatives delivered by non-government organizations, service providers, and youth workers. This is a non-criminal procedure providing for the referral of youth who are accused of committing certain categories of offences to a specifically-designated program, prior to and in place of adjudication.

While this is an alternative to court processing, it is a formal procedure, visible and publicly accountable, whereby voluntary settlement of an alleged offence is developed involving the victim and the community.

Alternative Measures Referrals

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
908	984	1,251	1,459

JUDICIAL INTERIM RELEASE

The Young Offenders Act (Canada) provides that a Youth Court Judge or Justice may release a young person prior to disposition rather than remanding that offender to custody. This is called Judicial Interim Release.

Workers provide background information and assessments on young persons to identify appropriate residential resources and the availability of responsible adults able and willing to provide care and/or supervision to the youth, if released.

Judicial Interim Release
Reports Completed

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
284	395	342	371

Judicial Interim Release
Numbers of Youth Supervised

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
143	205	193	188

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE DISPOSITIONS

The Alternative Dispositions Program provides the Court with the alternative of sentencing an offender to a specific community program rather than to a period of custody or probation.

The Program gives the victim of an offence an opportunity to participate in the proceedings to the extent desirable, with a view to recovering, where possible, an appropriate compensation for illegal actions against a person or property. Where there is no identifiable victim, the Program provides for compensation to society through work performed for the community.

The Program consists of Community Service Orders, Personal Service Orders, and Compensation Orders. During 1989-90, there were 1,256 Community and Personal Service Orders referred to the Program and $72,817 was repaid through Compensation Orders.

Community Alternative Services
Numbers of Service Orders

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1,288	1,180	1,187	1,256

Community Alternative Services
Numbers of Compensation Orders/Dollars

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
360	384	402	386
$50,000	$53,862	$62,706	$72,817

PROBATION SERVICES

The duties of youth workers under the Act include supervision of offenders bound by probation orders, preparation and presentation to the Court of pre-disposition and progress reports, and such other duties as the Provincial Director requires.

This is the major responsibility of the community component of the Division and is provided to all Courts and communities. There were 1,579 active probation cases at the end of the 1989-90 fiscal year.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Program was developed to provide lower-cost, community-based alternatives to custody for high-risk, high-need youth. This Program, by providing increased supervision to youth, enables them to remain in the community while ensuring protection of society.

The Program has enabled the Division to realize its objective of partnership with the community in dealing with youth who offend. At the same time, it provides youth with opportunities to acquire new skills and experiences. Projects are delivered by individuals or organizations within the community.

Forty-five youth were involved in Support Services projects during the year under review.

Support Services Projects 1989-90

- Construction of Pelican Narrows playground.
- Renovation of LaRonge youth drop-in centre.
- Wood-cutting project in North Battleford allowed youth to provide compensation to victims, perform community service work, and acquire and enhance work skills.
- An employment preparation and work experience opportunity for youth in Saskatoon.
- Saskatoon stabilization, supervision, and counselling project for high-need youth 12-15 years of age, who were not attending school and who had problems with substance abuse.
- Group supervision of Court-ordered community service placements in Prince Albert to improve completion rate and reduce number of youth charged with failure to comply.
- "Next Step" Project in Regina for 16 and 17 year olds providing living skills, instruction, and counselling to develop a personal plan, and employment preparation, training, and work experience.

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION

The Intensive Supervision Program is designed as a specific community-based alternative to detaining youth in custody. Through this Program, the Department provides increased levels of supervision, within the community, to youth who would otherwise be in custody.

The Program is available as an option to custody in the following situations: while awaiting a hearing, at the time of sentencing, on leave from a custody facility, and when released early from custody by the Court.

Intensive Supervision Cases Supervised

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
nil	150	165	195

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Programs refers to a disposition within probation supervision whereby youth may be required to attend a specific facility or program tailored to their needs. Services provided include counselling, life skills development, and specific kinds of training, information, and/or education.

Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina accepted 45 referrals during the year into its Attendance Program.

Attendance Referrals (Rainbow)

1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
31	52	44	45

OPEN CUSTODY

Open Custody is defined in the Young Offenders Act (Canada) as "a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, a forest or wilderness camp or any other like place or facility". The Open Custody Program requires young persons to live in a supervised "away from home" environment (the custody component).

In Open Custody, youth are involved in regular school programs, community work and recreation programs, and regular employment (the open component). Open custody was provided by Dales House in Regina, Kilburn Hall and Yarrow Youth Farm in Saskatoon, the Community Youth Residences in North Battleford and Creighton, Department Youth Camps in Kenosee and Prince Albert, the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre at Green Lake, the Oskietawin Group Home in Sandy Bay, and the Salvation Army Youth Resource Centre in Regina (non-governmental group homes) during the year under review.

During 1989-90, the average daily count of young persons in open custody was 127, including Community Homes open custody placements.

Community Homes refers to a network of 34 private homes in various locations: urban centres, farms, small towns, Indian reserves, and the far north.

These bed spaces complement the more traditional open custody bed spaces. They also provide Judicial Interim Release services to youth who would otherwise be detained in police cells or a secure facility pending a court appearance.

Community Homes give youth workers the option of placing a young person in a resource close to their home community and which best suits the young person's needs. Native operators of community homes are actively recruited, particularly in the northern part of the province.

SECURE CUSTODY

Under the terms of the Young Offenders Act (Canada), secure custody means "custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province, for the secure containment or restraint of young persons".

Secure custody facilities are designed to contain the young person in a supportive, developmental environment where control can be achieved by close supervision.

Police detention and court remand spaces were developed as a component of each secure custody facility. Detention and remand spaces are required for holding certain youth until a first court appearance, or until court adjudication and sentencing is complete.

During the year, the Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina, Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon, and the North Battleford Youth Centre provided secure custody and detention services for offenders.

During the year under review, the average daily count of young persons in secure custody was 125, and the average daily count in detention was 39 youths.

Average Daily Custody Counts

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Secure	74	104	134	130	125
Remand	42	43	40	35	39
Open	78	120	145	132	127
TOTALS	**194**	**267**	**319**	**297**	**291**

Community Living

The Community Living Division provided and facilitated community-based services for persons who are physically or mentally disabled. This was done to ensure their physical, emotional, and social needs were met, and to assist many to live and function as independently as possible within their own communities.

SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY THERAPY

The Division provided case management, individual program planning, staff training, general consultation, and support services to community boards across Saskatchewan.

Social workers handled 3,210 individual client cases and 183 family cases, and had 275 private-service home operators and 27 private residential service providers on caseloads.

Community therapists provided program consultations and support to 231 clients, conducted 28 training sessions across Saskatchewan and delivered eight specialized workshops and conferences on behaviourial and developmental programming and autism.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family support services helped parents and their children through the initial adjustment to disabilities; to diminish or eliminate obstacles to normal family functioning which were caused by a disability; to assist families and the community service system in establishing a developmental model for pre-school and school-aged children; and, to assist families in making appropriate planning decisions about educational, housing, and life-style issues at appropriate times.

Respite services were provided by resource homes in Saskatoon and Regina. A number of group homes also had respite beds available. Families who could not access these homes were able to use respite services through the Outreach Program.

The Division made limited use of the preventive services provision of The Family Services Act to provide services in the parental homes of children with severe disabilities, particularly where there was a possibility of the children coming into care.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

The Early Childhood Intervention Program provided home-based training and support to parents of children from birth to five years of age with developmental disabilities. This Program was delivered through regular home visits. It helped families and prevented children coming into care.

The Program was administered by non-profit, mainly parent-controlled community boards. Some local funding supplemented the related costs.

A provincial council provided an effective forum for the discussion of ideas.

ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The primary objective in providing residential services for adults with mental or physical disabilities was to develop a broad spectrum of options promoting the least restrictive setting possible in each case.

Eighty-nine group homes located in 35 communities accommodated 492 adults who were mentally retarded. Fifty-two physically disabled adults resided in six group homes. As part of the Community Living Plan, eight new group homes were initiated in the following communities in 1989-90: Wadena, Kindersley, Regina, Wilkie, Maidstone, Saskatoon, Ituna, and Humboldt.

Approved private-service homes provided the degree of care appropriate to meet individual client needs. During the year, 275 homes accommodated 723 persons across Saskatchewan. The Division also funded a program which provided respite for home operators, enabling them to arrange for relief staff for reasons of annual or emergency leave.

The Supportive Living Program provided the necessary support services to enable adults with mild mental retardation to reside in their own homes or apartments. There was a total of 166 spaces available within 21 Saskatchewan communities.

Houston Heights, Regina, received a grant to provide attendant care services to 18 individuals.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

The Division operates Valley View Centre, a 500 space institutional-based program for developmentally disabled persons in Moose Jaw. Valley View Centre provides services specifically to those individuals whose needs could not currently be met in the community.

Valley View Centre is a major participant in the government's Community Living Plan. This initiative provides an opportunity for residents to move into the community.

RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Residential placements for children were used only as a last resort. There were spaces available in foster homes, group homes, and small hospital locations.

The Small Hospitals Program was funded by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and jointly administered by the Social Services and Health Departments. Persons accommodated by this program primarily required 24-hour skilled nursing care, had parents or guardians willing to maintain a family relationship, and were able to attend a developmental centre educational program where these were available.

ACTIVITY CENTRES

Twenty locally operated activity centres provided adult day vocational programs for 874 persons with mental retardation and motor or sensory limitations. Programming stressed basic living skills, socialization, and recreation so that clients could develop sufficient social competence to function in a community setting.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

Twenty-eight sheltered workshops provided specialized training opportunities for 1,040 adult clients with fair motor development or minimal sensory limitations. This program focused on training and production. Clients developed work and social skills so they were able either to reach their potential level of independence or obtain competitive employment. A portion of the profit realized by workshops was returned to clients.

Sheltered workshops funding was cost-shared with the federal government under the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement.

The chart on the next page identifies the communities in which activity centre and sheltered workshop programs are operating.

ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

As part of the Community Living Plan, a number of new day activity programs were developed. These programs provided activities ranging from full-time, centre-based activities to integration of seniors into existing senior citizens' programs.

LONG TERM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Thirty-four positions were funded to ensure ongoing employment for persons with disabilities. Funds are used to provide support services such as job coaching or wage subsidy.

CONTRACT SERVICES BRANCH

The management of grants administration to all non-governmental organizations which are mandated, supplementary, or complementary to the Department's services, has been consolidated into the Contract Services Branch. This Branch ensures fiscal accountability and sound internal management in these organizations.

ACTIVITY CENTRES SPACES
1989 - 1990

Battlefords	44
Estevan	16
Humboldt	18
Kindersley	12
Lloydminster	8
Meadow Lake	14
Melfort	36
Melville	20
Moose Jaw	88
Prince Albert	42
Redvers	34
Regina	96
Rosetown	12
Saskatoon	330
Shaunavon	6
Swift Current	16
Wadena	36
Waldheim	9
Weyburn	17
Yorkton	20
Total	**874**

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS SPACES
1989 - 1990

Autistic Program (Regina)	3
Battlefords	60
Cudworth	30
Estevan	33
Gravelbourg	25
Humboldt	20
Kipling	14
Kronau	18
Langenburg	15
Lloydminster	24
Maple Creek	18
Meadow Lake	12
Melville	21
Moose Jaw	73
Moosomin	25
Nipawin	32
Outlook	15
Porcupine Plain	18
Preeceville	16
Prince Albert	84
Regina - S.A.C. *	127
Rosetown	25
Rosthern	25
Saskatoon - S.A.C. *	132
Shaunavon	15
Swift Current - S.A.C. *	53
Weyburn	36
Yorkton - S.A.C. *	71
Total	**1040**

* Saskatchewan Abilities Council

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Division provided a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program within the framework of the federal-provincial Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement for persons with mental or physical disabilities. This involved provisions for assessment, counselling, and restoration services, as well as vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons. Program consultation and staff development were available for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors.

The provincial coordinator chairs a training-selection committee which meets regularly to review and determine eligibility of potential clients referred by many other agencies. The Departments of Education and Social Services are represented on this Committee. Referrals to this Committee are made by provincial government departments and community referral agencies representing the target groups of the program.

A total of 851 applications were approved under the program during the year.

Vocational Rehabilitation
Assessments

Educational	10
Learning disability	14
Other	2
Psychological (private)	9
Vocational - Saskatchewan Abilities Council (S.A.C.)	105
Vocational - Wascana Rehabilitation Centre	11
Work assessments	110

Vocational Rehabilitation
Job Readiness Training

Adjustment to blindness training	20
Adult basic education	90
Basic skills training	38
Driver training	9
Life skills course	21
Other	2
Tutoring (Radius)	21
Vocational training	12
Work Experience S.A.C.	35
Work Preparation S.A.C.	28

Vocational Rehabilitation
Post Secondary Training

Business College	9
Correspondence Course	5
Community College - Saskatchewan	3
Community College - out-of-province	5
Compu-College Saskatchewan	13
Other	12
SIAST - Kelsey Campus	15
SIAST - Palliser Campus	10
SIAST - Wascana Campus	19
SIAST - Woodland Campus	11
Institute - out-of-province	1
University of Regina	33
University of Saskatchewan	44
University - out-of-province	10

Vocational Rehabilitation
Special Services

Computers	20
Drugs	11
Interpreter services	10
Lifts/Ramps	1
Medical restoration	18
Mobility and communication equipment	10
Other	25
Renovations	1
Special transportation	2
Special equipment and tools	36
Tutoring (individual instruction)	22

Vocational Rehabilitation
Training on the Job

Private trades	1
Training-on-the-job	20
Other	2

Vocational Rehabilitation
Breakdown of Disabilities

Allergies	2
Amputee	6
Arthritis	22
Back/Hip/Neck Injury	26
Cerebral Palsy	23
Diabetes	5
Epilepsy	16
Head injury	37
Hearing impairment	135
Learning disabilities	60
Mental retardation	206
Mobility disabilities	57
Multiple Sclerosis	12
Muscular Dystrophy	4
Other physical disabilities	98
Psychiatric disabilities	62
Substance abuse	6
Visual impairment	74

Child Day Care

The Child Day Care Branch administers the provincial child care program. The Branch approves and licenses child care centres. The Branch also approves family child care homes. All centres and homes must meet the requirements and standards as established within The Day Care Regulations. The Branch monitors and provides support to all licensed spaces.

In addition, the Branch administers the Child Subsidy Program. This Program is available to parents who are eligible based on an income test and are attending an educational/training program or are employed. Approximately 80 percent of all licensed and approved child care spaces are utilized by parents requiring subsidy, with 85 percent of all subsidies paid to single parent families. In 1989-90, approximately 4,000 families received an average of $214 per month subsidy to assist with child care expenses.

The Branch administers various grants to centres and homes that assist in start-up costs as well as operational costs. Grants are also available to assist the placement of special needs children in centres.

In the 1989-90 fiscal year, three new centres were opened: Luther Child Care Centre in Saskatoon in January, 1990 with 40 spaces; Transcona Park Child Care Co-operative in Regina in August,1989 with 45 spaces; and Woodland Child Care Co-operative at the Woodland Campus in Prince Albert in October, 1989 with 30 spaces.

There were 5,800 licensed and approved spaces as of March 31, 1990, with 3,820 spaces in centres and 1,980 in homes. This represented an increase of 308 spaces since March, 1989.

The Child Care Act was passed in August, 1989.

This new legislation:

- requires, for the first time, that centres be licensed;
- provides for the development of regulations related to licensing standards, grants, and subsidies;
- introduces greater flexibility for centres to be operated by a broader range of organizations and individuals; and,
- enhances creativity by allowing the development of innovative services to meet unique child care needs.

Income Security

SASKATCHEWAN ASSISTANCE PLAN

The Income Security Division provided basic income support services for individuals and families who for various reasons including unemployment, disability, ill health, or low income, could not meet their basic needs.

Under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, the Division provided funds to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing, and special needs, and ensured supplementary health services to individuals and families who had insufficient funds to meet basic needs. The Plan was cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

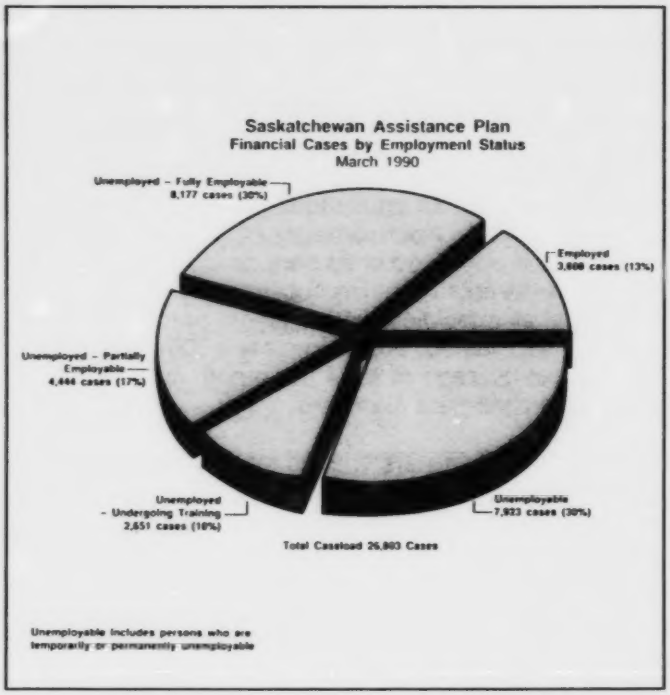
Persons in need could apply for and receive benefits, as well as related information on client rights and responsibilities, at any of the Department's regional offices.

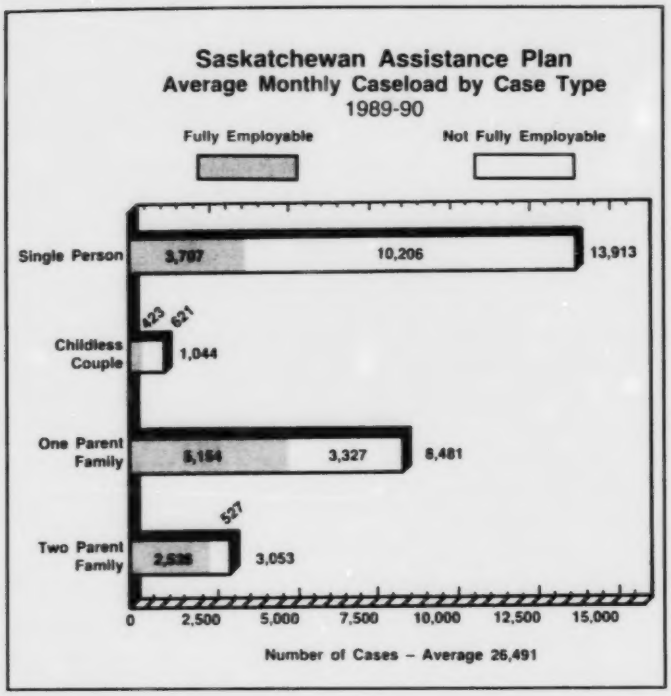
Program initiatives during the year included development and initial implementation of a case planning service delivery model intended to further encourage client self-sufficiency and financial independence. Specialized units in Saskatoon and Regina provided improved services to specific client groups, such as single parents.

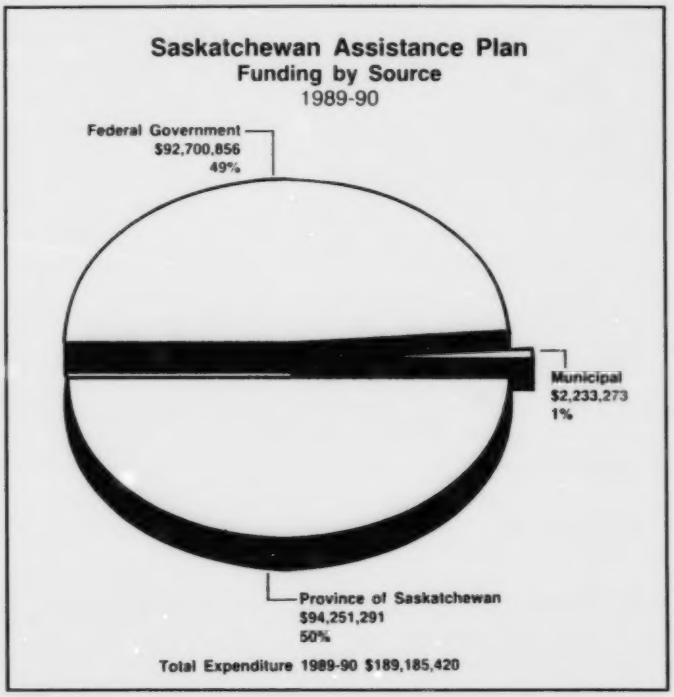
Semi-monthly assistance payments were introduced to assist families with dependent children in money management. Cheques were also made cashable upon receipt, to assist all recipients.

The Moose Jaw and Prince Albert "City Social Assistance Units" were amalgamated with the provincial delivery system.

The March, 1990 social assistance caseload is the lowest March level since 1982.




Saskatchewan Assistance Plan
Average Monthly Caseload by Case Type
1989-90
Fully Employable
Not Fully Employable
Single Person
3,707
10,206
13,913
Childless Couple
423
621
1,044
One Parent Family
5,154
3,327
8,481
Two Parent Family
527
2,526
3,053
0
2,500
5,000
7,500
10,000
12,500
15,000
Number of Cases – Average 26,491


Saskatchewan Assistance Plan
Funding by Source
1989-90
Federal Government
$92,700,856
49%
Municipal
$2,233,273
1%
Province of Saskatchewan
$94,251,291
50%
Total Expenditure 1989-90 $189,185,420

Employment and Family Income

The Employment Branch continued to provide regional referral services to the Saskatchewan Works Program, the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program, and the New Careers Corporation as well as other employment, training, and educational programming.

Saskatchewan Works

The Employment Branch continued administration of the Saskatchewan Works Program during the year, as part of the government's overall job creation strategy.

The Saskatchewan Works Program served as a means of providing productive employment opportunities for persons receiving benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Its purpose was to provide them with work experience and job-related skills, and to facilitate their continuing participation in the work force. Saskatchewan business, local government, and non-profit employers, whose projects were approved under the Program, were eligible for subsidies up to the provincial minimum wage with related employee benefits.

To qualify for funding, employers had to demonstrate that:

- the work created was employment which would not have existed without program support;
- meaningful work experience and job-related skills would be provided and existing employees' skills would be considered;
- projects would provide between 20 and 26 weeks of full-time, continuous employment; and,
- projects would contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province.

The Branch operated a number of employer information offices throughout the province to administer this Program. Clients were referred to employers by program consultants.

During 1989-90, 310 jobs continued from the previous year and 1,010 new jobs were created. In addition, close to 400 work placements were created for multi-barriered clients through Work Preparation Centres across the province. Over 1,600 clients received work experience through the Saskatchewan Works Program.

New Careers Corporation

An additional 205 clients were hired under the New Careers Corporation, with the majority carrying out activities as contracted through the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Saskatchewan Skills Development Program

In co-operation with the Department of Education, clients were referred to a wide range of classes in adult basic education and pre-employment skills development, offered through the provincial community college and technical institute systems.

Approximately 2,400 students enrolled in one or more classes under this program. Of these, approximately 75 percent were enrolled in Adult Basic Education or technical vocational programs. The remaining 25 percent were enrolled in community-based programs such as career planning, employment readiness, and life skills courses across the province.

FAMILY INCOME PLAN

This program provided monthly income supplements to low-income families with children under 18 years of age. Eligibility was based on annual family income and assets. During 1989-90, supplements were provided to 6,391 low-income families benefitting 14,362 children. The average monthly caseload was 4,352.

Internal Support Services

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

This Division's name was changed during the year to reflect the importance and increasing role of the Division in interprovincial and federal-provincial consultations and negotiations. It represented the interests of Saskatchewan, and more particularly, the Department, in federal-provincial and interprovincial issues and initiatives. This included negotiation and administration of federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements, such as the Canada Assistance Plan, Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons, Young Offenders, Criminal Legal Aid, and the Employability Enhancement Accord. Also included were charge-backs to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for services provided to status Indians.

The Division worked to maximize federal revenue under various cost sharing arrangements and for the provision of social services to status Indians. During the year under review, $174,993,000 was recovered for the Province. Of this, $154,733,000 was for Saskatchewan Social Services programs and the remainder for other departments.

The Division also provided support for the policy and program development functions of the Department, including planning, research, program design, and evaluation activities. It sought to maximize response to policy direction from government and to help the Department adapt to changing priorities. It promoted clear and consistent policy in all program areas. It also ensured program support through provision of information, research and evaluation services, and ensured linkages for resolution of inter-program, inter-departmental, and inter-governmental issues.

The Division was responsible for coordinating the Department's legislative program and activities, as well as providing technical and policy expertise on Regulatory changes, Cabinet submissions, and Orders-in-Council. It provided a coordinated approach to legislative development within the Department, enabling it to respond effectively to the need for legislative change.

Program and Fiscal Highlights

During the year under review, the Division participated in the planning, coordination, and implementation of the national Symposium About Families. It also played a key role in pursuing the government's commitment to families through coordination of a departmental and inter-departmental review of policies impacting families which culminated in establishment of the Saskatchewan Family Foundation.

The Division took a lead role in renegotiation of the 1989-90 funding of the Canada/Saskatchewan Accord on Employability for Social Assistance Recipients. It also participated in federal-provincial negotiations to establish the principles and framework for a new, improved, longer-term Accord.

It reviewed revenue recovery from federal sources across all agreements; provided research and coordinated development of new legislation for child care, family services, and adoption programs; implemented automation of civil legal aid cost sharing; published quarterly statistical reports; and, completed operational reviews for several programs. The Division also conducted the first phase of an evaluation of employment programming.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division provided administrative, financial, and computer systems support to the Department.

Financial Services Branch

This Branch continued to provide financial services to all program divisions of the Department and ensured compliance with government financial management policies and generally accepted accounting principles. Financial systems were upgraded to enhance both productivity and financial reporting. Consultative services were provided to various program areas with respect to evaluation and improvement of financial management systems and procedures.

Budget Management Branch

This Branch managed the Department's fiscal planning, forecasting, and controls by preparing the annual budget and monitoring expenditure levels through monthly fiscal forecasts. The Department delivered all mandated programs within the approved budget for the third consecutive year.

Departmental Services Branch

This Branch managed all properties used by the Department, coordinated space acquisition, office furniture, and equipment, maintained an inventory of departmental assets, managed departmental records, controlled design and acquisition of forms, and, provided services such as mail handling, purchasing, filing systems, and vehicle coordination.

Computer Systems Branch

This Branch coordinated ongoing office automation throughout the Department, managed a province-wide computer network, provided leadership in developing new systems, and performed a variety of consultative and support functions.

Acquisition of microcomputer equipment and enhanced training have created work efficiencies. Standards development and implementation of a dedicated processor contributed to improved system performance for the Department.

Regional Support Services

Regional Administration Managers and support staff in the Department's six regions provided administrative and clerical support to the Department's programs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Branch provided advice and direction to the Department in all areas of human resource management. It provided expertise in the areas of recruitment and selection, classification, contract interpretation, employee benefits, personnel policy, and labour relations. It assisted all Divisions and Branches in manpower planning, achieving employment fairness goals, and managing employee evaluation and appraisal processes.

The Branch coordinated staff development plans and activities, administered educational leave and tuition reimbursement programs, and implemented a new staff orientation program.

The Branch provided communications support and consultation to all program areas.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS AND FINANCIAL QUALITY CONTROL

Special Investigations

The purpose of Special Investigations was to investigate abuse by recipients of assistance programs and to recommend criminal charges, where appropriate.

The Branch completed 202 investigations and criminal action was recommended in 157 cases.

Although 70 successful criminal prosecutions were registered in the courts, only 21 current year dispositions were received. Sentences imposed ranged from incarceration to community service work.

Financial Quality Control

Financial Quality Control conducted random audits of the Department's financial assistance programs to ensure standards were being met, and participated in comprehensive audits of selected non-governmental organizations.

1989 - 1990 Fiscal Statement

Vote 36: Saskatchewan Social Services Expenditure
(unaudited)

Program Services	
Administration	$ 8,510,843
Income Security	2,364,702
Family Services	3,572,798
Child Care	1,357,462
Community Living	19,658,060
Young Offenders	10,747,449
Regional Operations	26,092,967
Payments to Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation	13,485,752
Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties	
Saskatchewan Works	8,553,102
Grants for Child Care	1,580,203
Grants for Family Services	6,129,978
Grants and Allowances for the Handicapped	17,705,409
Payments to Local Social Services Units	183,138
Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals	
Saskatchewan Skills Development Program	5,782,994
Allowances for Child Care	10,459,445
Children's Services	22,316,737
Payment to the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission	6,624,100
Members of the Executive Council	18,358
Income Security	
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	189,185,420
Family Income Plan	8,732,087
Total Social Services Expenditure	**$ 363,061,004**